

# Eversley School Council Policy

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To provide opportunity for pupils to become partners in their own education and to make a positive contribution to the school environment and ethos.
- To develop and promote children's self-confidence, social skills and their responsible behaviour towards each other and towards their teachers and adult members of staff.
- To develop the pupil's knowledge, skills and understanding of how to contribute to society as a whole and what it means to be an active citizen.
- To develop pupils recognition of themselves as worthwhile individuals with a right to be heard.
- To allow children to have a 'voice' and to share their opinions and ideas with others.
- To allow children to become more responsible and actively involved in the decision –making process of the school.
- To develop important life skills that promote positive mental health and social welfare, emotional literacy critical and moral reasoning, self-esteem, self-awareness, communication skills, relationship skills and assertiveness.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETINGS

School Council meetings are held weekly and last 30 to 45 minutes. The meetings are held by the School Council Link Teacher – Mrs Yioda Whitehouse, together with the School Council representatives.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING ORGANISATION

The meetings are run and led by the pupils (School Council representatives)

At each Council meeting there will be one main issue on the agenda, as well as opportunities for all School Council Reps to discuss other ideas raised by the pupils in their class.

## CHOOSING THE REPRESENTATIVES

During the first two weeks of the Autumn Term, teachers will discuss with their classes the role of the School Council.

All children should be supported to decide whether they would like to stand for class representative and be made aware of what this role entails. **Brainstorming what makes an "effective" council rep is a supportive way to get children to think about the qualities and values needed for such a role.**

Two representatives will be elected from each class – one boy and one girl from each class from Year 1 to 6.

Pupils will be asked to prepare and deliver a short speech to the rest of their class (e.g. stating why they should be chosen)

A secret ballot will be held, where each pupils will be given the opportunity to vote. Slips will be counted by the teacher and pupil with the highest number of votes are elected as class council representatives.

This process will take place every year to allow a variety of pupils the opportunity to become elected for the Council.

In the event of two or more children drawing, a re-vote should take place.

#### **THE FIRST SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**

The first School Council meeting will be chaired by the School Council Leader and pupils will be given opportunities to learn about the procedures of these meetings, minutes, designated roles, turn taking, discussion, sub-committees, etc.

Opportunities are also planned for the children to play 'getting to know you' games in the first few weeks of meetings.

School Council badges are given out in whole school assembly and must be worn by the School Council Reps at all times in school.

**September 2018**

**Review date: September 2019**